

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am Reverend Alethea K. Devi, MTP. I am an ordained Minister in the Ruhanitate Sufi lineage. I have a Master's degree in Transpersonal Psychology, Professional Certification in Systemic/Family Constellation facilitation, certificates in Transformational and Holistic Life Coaching, and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), which also includes advanced Reiki energy healing training. I also hold initiations in 2 Indigenous traditions, which guides me as a Post-tribal Shaman - Shamanic practitioner. With all mentioned, I also integrate an interfaith/interspiritual approach to all of my offerings as a Counselor/ Mentor/ Healer/Teacher.

With all of my academic traings etc. it is my life experiences and how I have integrated them into my work that sets me apart form many others and it also connects me to many others who offer alternative methods of healing and personal growth. This cannot be taught but developed, thus unregulatable...

People come to me because I am alternative to the mainstream. I am not defined by some outer authority. I am guided and live by an inner authority. My reputation is built on the integrity of my self and what and how I offer my services. As a professional, I do carry Liability insurance. I also answer to my ordination board and live by a code of conduct from my graduate school. Many alternative Practitioners like myself, are already regulated in some way by the organizations that have trained them, and by their matured sense of duty and responsibility of service to the greater collective humanity.

As a Spiritual Counselor / Facilitator, / Teacher, I work with individuals, families, and groups, both in live and on-line sessions, workshops and retreats. My rates reflect the quality of my offerings. My offerings vary according to the needs of my clients and students.

As mentioned In the text of the bill, there will be 1 person who will determine the applicant's worthiness to be included in this elite list endorsed by the state. This places too much power in their hands, leading to decisions made with a bias and prejudice against anything they feel is contrary with their own personal beliefs.

Instead of trying to scare the public into a manufactured threat or emergency, leave the choice up to the public who they wish to go to for their well-being needs.

The Present system of the clinical approach of counseling and therapy is outdated and is not holistic but pathological, a detriment to true healing and recovery. Because of this bias of the mainstream system, I have had clients ask me to work alongside their doctors or therapists as a team member to best support them thru their process. This worked very well, because I showed respect for their area of expertise and I was shown this for mine as well...But I had to insist on it.

I will not allow any state board to tell me, or pressure me to restrict what I offer. Since the state doesn't understand the nature of what many alternative practitioners offer, how can they regulate what they do not comprehend? This is a direct assault on people's choice for care, an assault on my freedom to care for my clients and students, a direct assault on anything alternative in our society.

For peoples rights to select how they are cared for, you will reject this bill.  
Alethea K. Devi, MTP